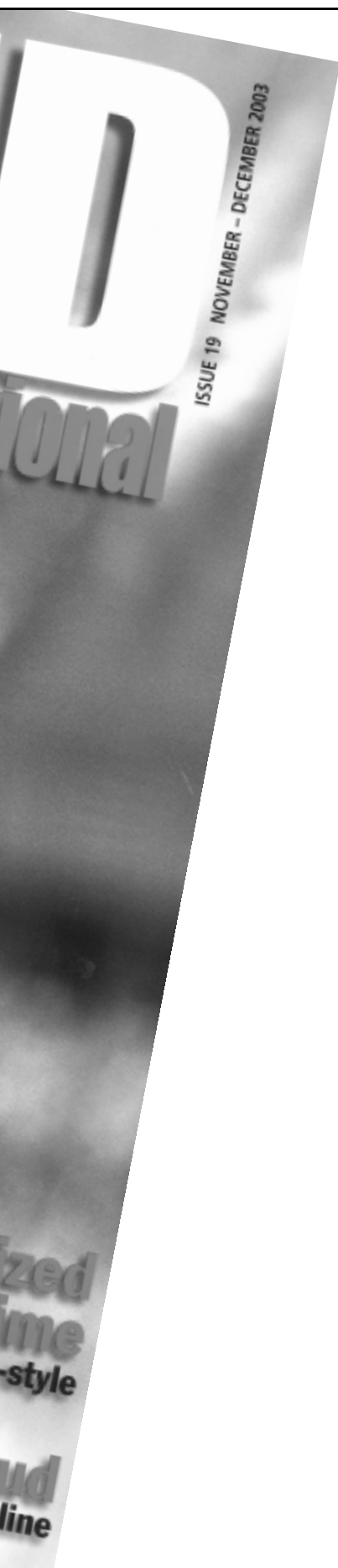


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## OIFP Draws International Acclaim





# OIFP Draws International Acclaim

by Stephen D. Moore

New Jersey's Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor (OIFP) has, since its birth as a fraud fighting agency in 1998, emerged as an international leader in the war on insurance fraud. From its founding by the New Jersey Legislature only five years ago to serve as the State's designated leader in fighting insurance fraud, OIFP has rapidly evolved from a fledgling agency faced with the daunting challenge of addressing New Jersey's insurance fraud problems to a highly specialized law enforcement agency, recognized and emulated as a model for fighting insurance fraud, not only in the United States but throughout the world. As a result, OIFP has been solicited for guidance and input from other fraud fighting agencies, both here and abroad, and has been highly praised for its innovative efforts in New Jersey to combat insurance fraud at every level and on every front.

In recognition of OIFP's successes

and its role as a national leader in America's war on insurance fraud, OIFP's Insurance Fraud Prosecutor was invited to deliver a keynote address to the Asia-Pacific Fraud Conference in Australia in September of 2003, where she also led a workshop addressing health care fraud and conferred with international insurance industry officials regarding OIFP's programs and initiatives. Following her appearance in Australia, the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor and OIFP were the featured cover story of the Fraud International magazine, which reaches readers throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Australia.

Upon her return from Australia, during the first week of October, the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor headed New Jersey's Sixth Annual Insurance Fraud Summit of insurance industry, law enforcement and government executives, where OIFP's record of success in 2003 was similarly recognized



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by fraud fighting officials from such national organizations in the United States as the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud (CAIF) and the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association (NHCAA). NHCAA's Executive Director, in particular, praised OIFP as a "shining example of what can be done, not only at the state level, but at the national level, to combat insurance fraud." He also described OIFP as a "genuine national leader" in our country's war on insurance fraud and explained that "any experienced, objective person in the industry will tell you that this is where they do it best." The Coalition's Executive Director also praised OIFP's record of success, explaining that OIFP "has shown the way" and serves as a "national model for

fighting insurance fraud," citing OIFP's fraud fighting statistics from its biennial statistical reports as leading the nation. At the Summit, the Alliance of American Insurers also recognized the "leadership role" assumed by OIFP in its efforts to fight insurance fraud and described New Jersey as "a national leader in fighting insurance fraud."

Later in October, OIFP was named as a national finalist by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in presenting its Excellence in Criminal Investigations Award, which it offered jointly with ChoicePoint for the first time in 2003. The Award recognizes quality achievements in the management and conduct of criminal investigations and promotes the sharing of information on successful programs.

*Division of Criminal Justice Chief Investigator Anne Kriegner and New Jersey Insurance Fraud Prosecutor Greta Gooden Brown attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police awards breakfast where OIFP was named a national finalist for the Excellence in Criminal Investigations Award.*



The Award is presented to the law enforcement agency, unit, task force or inter-agency task force which most demonstrates exceptional innovation and excellence in criminal investigations. IACP is among the largest and most prestigious law enforcement associations in the United States, representing the management of law enforcement, and boasts more than 17,000 members, including the leadership of most local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The Award's corporate sponsor, ChoicePoint, has a long record of supporting law enforcement through the provision of investigative information from its comprehensive databases.

Other speaking engagements in 2003 similarly reflect the magnitude of OIFP's influence in the American fraud fighting community. The Insurance Fraud Prosecutor delivered the keynote address at the May, 2003 meeting of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the International Association of Special Investigative Units. In November of 2003, OIFP was tapped to address the Insurance Fraud Executive Council in Charleston, South Carolina, an honor bestowed by invitation only. Among the many other speaking engagements of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor in 2003 were appearances before the Insurance Council of New Jersey, the New Jersey Special Investigators Association, the New Jersey Judicial College and the New Jersey State Bar Association.

OIFP's Executive Staff was also tapped during 2003. In March of 2003, OIFP's Medicaid Fraud Section Chief was invited to participate in the Third National Forum on Fraud and Abuse in the Sales and Marketing of Drugs and Medical Devices sponsored by the American Conference Institute.

Not surprisingly, as in years past, OIFP's leadership in the fight against insurance fraud has also been evidenced in its ability to assist other



*OIFP Special Assistant/Industry Liaison John Butchko receives the 2003 Outstanding Service Award from the Delaware Valley Chapter of the International Association of Special Investigative Units. I. to r. Cathy Gicker, Vice President IASIU, Tom Donahue, President Delaware Valley Chapter IASIU, John Butchko, OIFP, Greta Gooden Brown, New Jersey Insurance Fraud Prosecutor.*

fraud fighting programs. OIFP's guidance and counsel have been sought by other law enforcement agencies, both here and abroad, from Hawaii to New York, from Australia to Columbia, and from points in between.

In 2003, the national and international media continued to herald OIFP's successes as a model for emulation by others fighting insurance fraud, including coverage in the *Fraud International* magazine, the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud's *Fraud Focus*, Mealey's *Litigation Report-Insurance Fraud*, and other periodicals of regional and national stature. OIFP's efforts to fight insurance fraud have also been cited as an example of effective fraud fighting by at least one leading college textbook, *Criminology*.

In recent years, OIFP's many programs have also drawn recognition





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from others in the fraud fighting community. OIFP's Medicaid Fraud Section has been nationally recognized by the federal government as one of the nation's most effective Medicaid Fraud Control Units. OIFP's media campaign has been commended for its excellence in addressing insurance fraud, and OIFP's series of roll call training videos are continuously requested by law enforcement officials from throughout the United States.

Individual efforts of those within OIFP were also formally acknowledged in 2003. OIFP's Deputy Chief of Criminal Investigations was cited by the Western New Jersey Chapter of the American Society for Industrial Security in May of 2003 for his exemplary dedication to fraud investigations and the fostering of a spirit of cooperation between law enforcement and the business community in New Jersey. OIFP's Insurance Industry Liaison was awarded the Outstanding Service Award by the Delaware Valley Chapter of the International Association of Special Investigation Units in June of 2003 for his dedication to the fight against insurance fraud in New Jersey, his sponsorship of joint training programs and ongoing working groups with the insurance industry, and his continuing efforts to foster an effective and mutually beneficial working relationship between law enforce-

ment agencies fighting insurance fraud in New Jersey and the insurance industry. In October, 2003, he was also recognized by the New Jersey Special Investigators Association and awarded its 2003 Annual President's Award. In addition, in 2003, the Society of Investigators of Greater Newark (SIGN) selected an OIFP State Supervising Investigator to serve as its President.

The achievements underlying OIFP's unprecedented recognition by the national and international fraud fighting community in 2003 were, perhaps, best described by the National Special Investigations Manager of a major U.S. insurance carrier, when he praised OIFP as "the most sophisticated prosecutorial agency in the country" in the realm of insurance fraud.

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**Stephen D. Moore** is a Supervising Deputy Attorney General with the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor, where he supervises its Liaison Section and serves as Editor of its Annual Report. Prior to joining OIFP in 1999, he served seven years as the County Prosecutor in Cape May County.

